

Message Text

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11

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TAGS: ETRD, EEC, GATT

SUBJECT: NEW CHAPTER ON "DEVELOPING COUNTRIES" IN EC GUIDELINES
FOR MTNS

AS STATED IN SEPTEL, THE COMMISSION "COMMUNICATION"
ON THE MTNS INCLUDES A NEW CHAPTER ON "DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES". THE FULL TEXT OF THIS CHAPTER IS AS
FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT

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1. THE OVERALL APPROACH CONTAINS A SET OF DETAILED

ORIENTATIONS TO WHICH THE COMMUNITY REMAINS FULLY COMMITTED. IT IS DETERMINED IN PARTICULAR, WITHOUT DETRIMENT TO THE ADVANTAGES ENJOYED BY THOSE COUNTRIES WITH WHICH IT HAS SPECIAL RELATIONS, TO RESPOND EVEN MORE THAN IN THE PAST TO THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS A WHOLE.

2. IT IS HOWEVER DIFFICULT, AS LONG AS THE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN EFFECTIVELY ENGAGED, TO BE MORE PRECISE AS TO SPECIFIC LINED OS ACTION. IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE COMMUNITY WILL ENDEAVOUR TO TAKE ACCOUNT TO THE FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE OF THE INTERESTS AND PROBLEMS THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES-- AND IN PARTICULAR OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED--IN ALL SECTORS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE FOLLOWING REMARKS GIVE PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS IN SO FAR AS CERTAIN SECTORS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONCERNED.

3. IN THE FIELD OF TARIFFS, IT IS CLEAR THAT IN THE FIRST STAGE THE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD AIM AT THE ELABORATION OF A SMMPLE (AND ARITHMETICAL) FORMULA FOR THE TARIFF REDUCTION WHICH WOULD BRING ABOUT A HARMONIZATION OF THE TARIFFS OF THE MAIN COUNTRIES. ONCE SUCH A FORMULA IS ACCEPTED BY PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES, AND DEPENDING ON THE AMPLITUDE OF THE OVERALL AVERAGE REDUCTION WHICH RESULTS FROM IT, ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO SPECIFIC ACTIONS CONCERNING PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THESE ACTIONS COULD APPLY EITHER TO THE AMPLITUDE OF THE TARIFF REDUCTION OR TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CUTS (STAGING OVER LONGER OR SHORTER PERIODS), OR TO THE EXCLUSION FORM THE GENERAL FORMULA OF TARIFF REDUCTION OF A LIMITED NUMBER OF PRODUCTS EXPORTED PRINCIPALLY BY THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH ARE COVERED BY THE SYSTEM OF GENERALISES PREFERENCES.

4. IN THE FIELD OF NON-TARIFF BARRIERS, THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL VERY LIKELY BE ORIENTATED FIRST TOWARDS THE ELABORATION OF MULTILATERAL SOLUTIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR PROBLEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST (GOVERNMENT PURCHASING, STANDARDS, COUNTERVAILING DUTIES AND EXPORT SUBSIDIES, ETC...). ONCE GENERAL AND MULTILATERAL SOLUTIONS ARE IN VIEW FOR EACH OF THESE SECTORS, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO SEEK, WHEREVER APPROPRIATE, SPECIFIC ARRANGEMENTS TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE INTERESTS AND PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THESE ARRANGEMENTS COULD APPLY TO THE

IMPLEMENTATION OF CERTAIN MECHANISMS RATHER THAN TO THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES.

IT SHOULD BE RECALLED ON THE OTHER HAND THAT IN THE FIELD OF NON-TARIFF BARRIERS THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES COULD HAVE A CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE, NOT ONLY BY PARTICIPATING IN MULTILATERAL SOLUTIONS BUT ALSO BY TRYING, IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, TO BRING ABOUT A SIMPLIFICATION OF THEIR IMPORT AND EXPORT PROCEDURES OR FORMALITIES.

5. AS FAR AS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS ARE CONCERNED, THE COMMUNITY WILL SEEK TO ENSURE THAT IN THE NEGOTIATION OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS FOR THE MAJOR PRODUCTS (CF. THE AGRICULTURAL CHAPTER) ACCOUNT IS TAKEN OF THE INTERESTS AND NEEDS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, EITHER:

-- BY THE CONCLUSION OF FOOD AID CONVENTIONS FOR CEREALS, RICE AND MILK PRODUCTS, TO BE SUPPLIED BY OR TO BE FINANCED BY THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES,
--OR BY THE DIRECT BENEFICIAL EFFECTS OF THE STABILISATION AND EXPANSION OF TRADE.

IN THE FUNCTIONING OF THE AGREEMENTS, IT WOULD ALSO BE NECESSARY TO PROVIDE, IN A MANNER COMMENSURATE WITH THEIR NEEDS AND INTERESTS, MORE FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS FOR THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND IN PARTICULAR THE LEAST DEVELOPED. IN ADDITION, IN NEGOTIATING THE RULES FOR JOINT DISCIPLINES, AS WELL AS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS ON OTHER PRODUCTS, THE EEC WOULD TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE NEED TO PROVIDE ADVANTAGES FOR THE EXPORTS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

6. AS REGARDS TROPICAL PRODUCTS WHICH, ACCORDING TO THE TOKYO DECLARATION, CONSTITUTE "A SPECIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND PRIORITY SECTOR" THE EEC MUST, AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME, TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE RESULTS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BEING CONDUCTED WITH COUNTRIES IN AFRICA, THE CARIBBEAN AND THE PACIFIC. THE COMMUNITY NATURALLY MAINTAINS ITS SUPPORT FOR THE RENEWAL OR CONCLUSION IN APPROPRIATE CASES OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS.

7. AS FAR AS INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIALS ARE CONCERNED, IT IS CLEAR THAT IN THE INTERESTS OF A HARMONIOUS EXPANSION OF THE WORLD ECONOMY THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SHARE WITH THE INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES RESPONSIBILITY FOR STABLE AND ORDERLY SUPPLIES. THE CONCERN OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO STRENGTHEN

THERI PROCESSING INDUSTRIES COULD BE CONSIDERED
THE FRAMEWORK OF MULTILATERAL SOLUTIONS, TAKING
INTO ACCOUNT THE NECESSITY FOR ANY TRANSITIONAL
ADJUSTMENT AND BY MEANS OF A COLLECTIVE EFFORT OF
COOPERATION.

8. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT THE EEC REMAINS
CONCERNED TO IMPROVE ITS SYSTEM OF GENERALISED
PREFERENCES BOTH AS FAR AS CONCERNS THE PRODUCT
COVERAGE (IN PARTICULAR PROCESSED AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTS) AND THE MODALITIES OF IT OPERATION.
END TEXT. GREENWALD

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